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OPEN LETTER

To:

Honorary Parliamentarians of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation

To begin, I would like to express thanks to the Ambassador for the invitation to meet with you here. We are aware that you have a very heavy schedule. Maybe we will be forced to abbreviate our discussion about issues which in fact are very broad, concerning Indonesia and possibilities of co-operation between us.

I would also like to introduce myself as a person who, along with my colleagues, is active in SKEPHI (Indonesian Network for Forest Conservation) and INFIGHT (Indonesian Front for the Defence of Human Rights), both of which are non-governmental organisations. SKEPHI is concerned with forest issues and organising a people- based forest conservation movement. INFIGHT focuses on human rights issues and the struggle for self-determination in Indonesia. Because our movement involves very sensitive issues, our organisations are often subject to 'special treatment' by the military.

Hopefully, all the problems that each one of us face as individuals will bring us together to initiate co-operative efforts, towards the formation of strong and constructive people to people links between Australians and Indonesians. Such links are historically in Indonesia's pre-independence period. Indeed, as two countries with democratic ideals, such links will never disappear and will continue to strengthen in the future.

This belief is further strengthened by the fact that Australia and Indonesia are located in the same geo-political, and geo-social region: the Asia Pacific. The development of every country within this region inevitably influences that of neighboring countries. This argument is useful when oriented towards constructive co-operation such as your visit to Indonesia.

Considering this, **INFIGHT** and **SKEPHI** would like to propose that our co-operation includes:

1. Information exchange concerning our respective realities and respective ideals, be it as a basis for further co-operation or otherwise.
2. Social co-operation, in the context of forging people to people relations, from the Australian community, of a moral and practical nature, particularly in relation to our highly risky struggle towards the realisation of a democratic society.
3. That real co-operation occurs in the form of concrete programs.
4. That a spirit of solidarity is shown in matters where either of us requires assistance.

As parliamentarians, we sincerely hope that you are able to urge and influence Australian foreign policy such that it is oriented towards the implementation of such co-operative efforts. We would like to add that such co-operation need not be overly formal, Rather, we hope it is based on basic and universal humane relations.

Once, again, thank you for this opportunity , and may we meet again in the near future.

20 October, 1992

S. Indro Tjahjono

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